

HOURS AND LOCATION

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, closed December 25. Admission: free. Located on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. For information call 202-633-1000 or visit our website at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. To become an NMAI Member, visit www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/give or call 1-800-242-NMAI [6624].

NEAREST METRO STATION

L'Enfant Plaza (Blue/Orange/Green/Yellow lines). Take the Maryland Avenue exit.

PLEASE NOTE

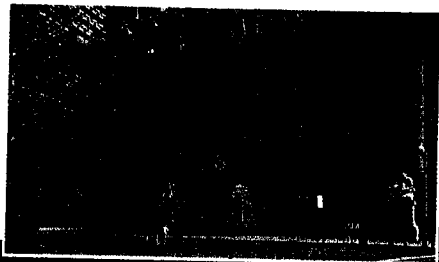
Food and drink are not permitted. Smoking is prohibited. Security officers hand-check all backpacks, purses, briefcases, suitcases, and other bags. No checkroom is available. Video or audio recording and flash photography are permitted. We are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

OTHER NMAI SITES

Cultural Resources Center, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD. Phone 301-238-1435. By appointment only.



The George Gustav Heye Center, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, One Bowling Green, New York, NY. Phone 212-514-3700.



Floor plan and site plan map illustrations by Louis Spirito, © Smithsonian.

Photography credits:

All photographs by Ernest Amoroso, Katherine Fogden, Walter Larrimore, Hayes P. Lavis, and R. A. Whiteside, © Smithsonian, unless otherwise indicated.

Cover, clockwise from top left:

Chimu mask, ca. AD 1200-1400. Peru. Gold and turquoise. (18.4.291)

Josh Hill (Ojibwe/Lakota) performing the Fancy Dance in the Potomac.

Kiowa Air-Day beaded sneakers, by Teri Greeves (Kiowa, b. 1970). 2004. Santa Fe, New Mexico. (26.3325)

Santee Smith (Mohawk) from the Kaha:wi Dance Theater performing in the Rasmuson Theater.

Back panel, top to bottom:

NMAI Cultural Resources Center, Suitland, Maryland.

George Gustav Heye Center, New York.

Photo by David Heald

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN



GENERAL INFORMATION

with Floor Plan



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., the 18th of the Smithsonian Institution's world-renowned museums, features the lifeways, history, and art of Native Americans throughout the Western Hemisphere. The Mall Museum, one of three sites that make up the National Museum of the American Indian, opened in 2004 as a major exhibition space as well as a center for performances, films, events, and educational activities.

GETTING STARTED

- Stop by the Welcome Desk (1st level) for visitor and membership information. Daily program information is also posted throughout the museum.
- Begin your visit on the 4th level at the Lelawi Theater.
- Take a **highlights** tour (45 minutes–1 hour). Tours are given daily at 1:30 p.m. All tours assemble in the Potomac Atrium (1st level). Check at the Welcome Desk or the museum's website for additional tours.



THE POTOMAC

The Potomac atrium, your point of entry into the museum, is often a gathering place for music, dance, cultural events, and tours. From here, elevators will take you to the exhibitions on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th levels.

Above: Bear Creek (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa) performing at a powwow social in the Potomac.

Right: *Raven Steals the Sun*, by Preston Singletary (Tlingit, b. 1963), 2003. Seattle, Washington. Blown and sand-carved glass. (26.3273)

IMAGINATIONS ACTIVITY CENTER

The museum's new family activity center provides an interactive hands-on learning environment. Come build an *iglu*, play our quiz show, or weave a giant basket. Visitors of all ages can explore dwellings, modes of transportation, music and craft, and interact with Native staff and artisans.

EXHIBITIONS

The museum features four permanent exhibitions:

- *Our Universes* (4th level) presents Native **beliefs**.
- *Our Peoples* (4th level) centers on Native **history**.
- *Our Lives* (3rd level) focuses on **contemporary Native life**.
- *Return to a Native Place* (2nd level) highlights the **Native peoples of the Chesapeake region**.

Other points of interest:

- The Lelawi Theater (4th level) presents *Who We Are*, a 13-minute film that celebrates the vitality and diversity of Native life.
- The W. Richard West, Jr. Contemporary Art Gallery (3rd level) features *A Song for the Horse Nation* opening October 29, 2011.
- The Sealaska Gallery (2nd level): check at the Welcome Desk or at our website for current exhibition information.
- The *Window on Collections* exhibitions (3rd and 4th levels) showcase beadwork, containers, peace medals, arrowheads, and other objects.



MUSEUM FLOOR PLAN



PROGRAMS, THEATER, AND FILMS

The museum has several locations that feature Native presentations, drama, dance, music performances, demonstrations, readings, panel discussions, and seminars, including:

- The Rasmuson Theater (1st level)
- The Outdoor Theater
- The Potomac
- Education Workshops (3rd and 4th levels)
- The Conference Center (4th level)

The Rasmuson Theater also features *A Thousand Roads*, a fictional, 45-minute film about contemporary Native people. Check the Welcome Desk for screening times.

STORES AND CAFE

- The Roanoke Museum Store (2nd level) offers a wide variety of merchandise, including books, crafts, music, souvenirs, toys, jewelry, textiles, and other works by Native artisans.
- The Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe (1st level) serves meals and snacks based on the indigenous foods of the Americas.

Above left: Member of Hālau O 'Aulani (Native Hawaiian) performing in the Potomac.

Above right: Jehnean Washington (Cherokee/Yuchi/Seminole/Northern Plains Shoshone) and Will Hill (Muscogee) performing in the Rasmuson Theater.

THE BUILDING

Designed by Douglas Cardinal (Blackfoot) and a team of Native architects and consultants—including Johnpaul Jones (Cherokee/Choctaw) and artist/designer Ramona Sakiestewa (Hopi)—the Mall Museum, draped in Kasota limestone, is a structure in which nature's rough beauty and architecture's creative elegance come together in perfect harmony. The building is aligned to the cardinal directions and to the center point of the Capitol dome, and is filled with symbols and forms that reflect the Native universe, including representations of nature, astronomy, and objects from the collection.

THE LANDSCAPE

The design team's vision to create a Native place on the National Mall was guided by ethnobotanist Donna House (Navajo/Oneida). The grounds honor local Native people by featuring four environments indigenous to the Chesapeake Bay region, including hardwood forest, wetlands, cropland, and meadow areas. Cardinal Direction Marker stones from Maryland, Canada, Hawai'i, and Chile share the landscape with more than 40 Grandfather Rocks, reminders of the longevity of Native Americans' relationship to the natural world.

HISTORY

Established by an Act of Congress in 1989, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is founded on the collection of the former Museum of the American Indian/Heye Foundation, in New York City. The collection is distinguished by more than 800,000 works of aesthetic, cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. These objects, most of which are cared for at the Cultural Resources Center in Maryland, span more than 10,000 years of Native heritage in the U.S. (including Hawai'i), Canada, and Latin America. In 1994, the museum opened its George Gustav Heye Center in New York City.

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SECOND LEVEL

- *Return to a Native Place: Algonquian Peoples of the Chesapeake*
- Roanoke Museum Store
- Sealaska Gallery



Visitors browsing in the Roanoke Museum Store. Photo by Jim Jones
©2002 Smithsonian Institution

Stairs

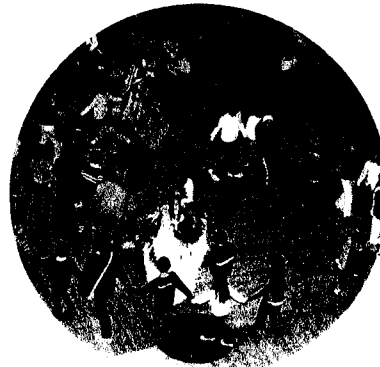
Elevators

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FIRST LEVEL

- Welcome Desk
(visitor information)
- Potomac Atrium
(highlights tours begin here)
- Elevators to levels 2, 3, and 4
- Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe
- Group Orientation Room
- Rasmuson Theater
- Group Entrance



Children performing the Winter Round Dance in the Potomac.



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MUSEUM FLOOR PLAN

Interactive touch screens
are featured at the *Window
on Collections* exhibitions.

aska Gallery



Roanoke
Museum Store

stairway

*Return to a
Native Place
Exhibition*



Chief William Russel
Clark (Nanticoke),
1922. Indian River,
Delaware. Photo by
Frank G. Speck. 1824.11

For Life in all Directions
(detail), by Roxanne
Swentzell (Santa Clara,
b. 1962), 2004. New
Mexico. Bronze, ceramic.
126.45463. Photo: © 2004 Robert
C. Gauthier



The Mitsitam Native
Foods Cafe serves food
inspired by Native dishes
from five regions of the
Western Hemisphere.
Photo: © 2004 Maxine
Mackenzie

Rasmuson
Theater

Group Entrance

Group
Orientation
Room

Stairs

Elevators

ATM

Mitsitam Native
Foods Cafe

Stairway

Potomac Atrium

tion

Entrance

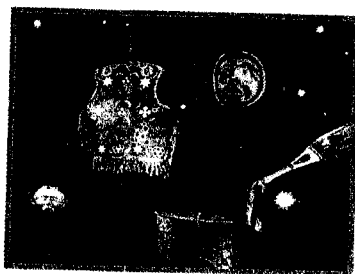
The Beaver and the Mink,
by Susan Point (Coast Salish,
b. 1952), 2004. Musqueam,
British Columbia, Canada. Red
cedar, paint, copper. 126.45574



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FOURTH LEVEL

- Lelawi Theater
(your visit begins here)
- *Our Universes* exhibition (Native beliefs)

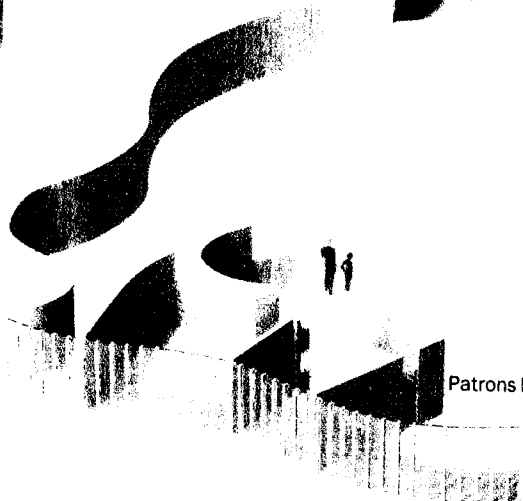


Objects that depict the stars, the sun, and the moon are among the works displayed in the *Our Universes* exhibition.



Visitors enjoying the film, *Who We Are*, the Lelawi Theater.

Stairs



Patrons

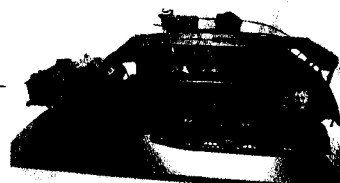
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THIRD LEVEL

- *Window on Collections* exhibitions
- imagiNATIONS Activity Center
- *Our Lives* exhibition
(contemporary Native life)
- W. Richard West, Jr.
Contemporary Arts Gallery
- Education Workshops



Faces of Native people in the *Our Lives* exhibition.

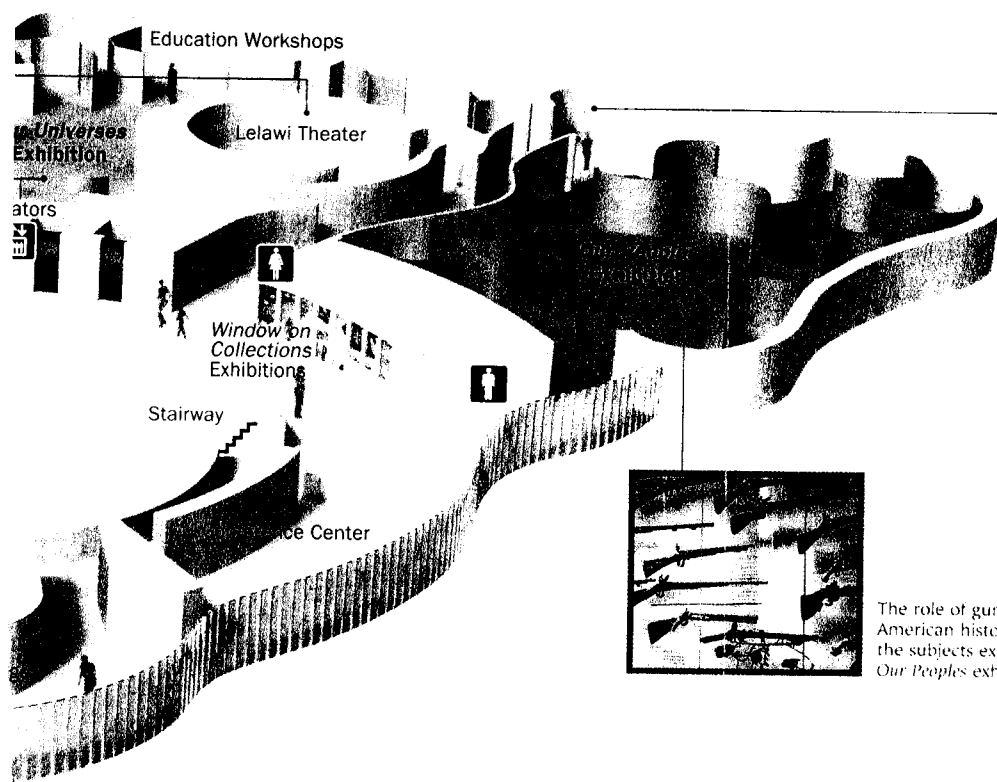


A Bombardier, used for ice fishing, is displayed in the Saint-Laurent Metis community gallery in the *Our Lives* exhibition.



The American Indian, by Fritz Scholder (Luiseno, 1937–2005), 1970. Oil on canvas.

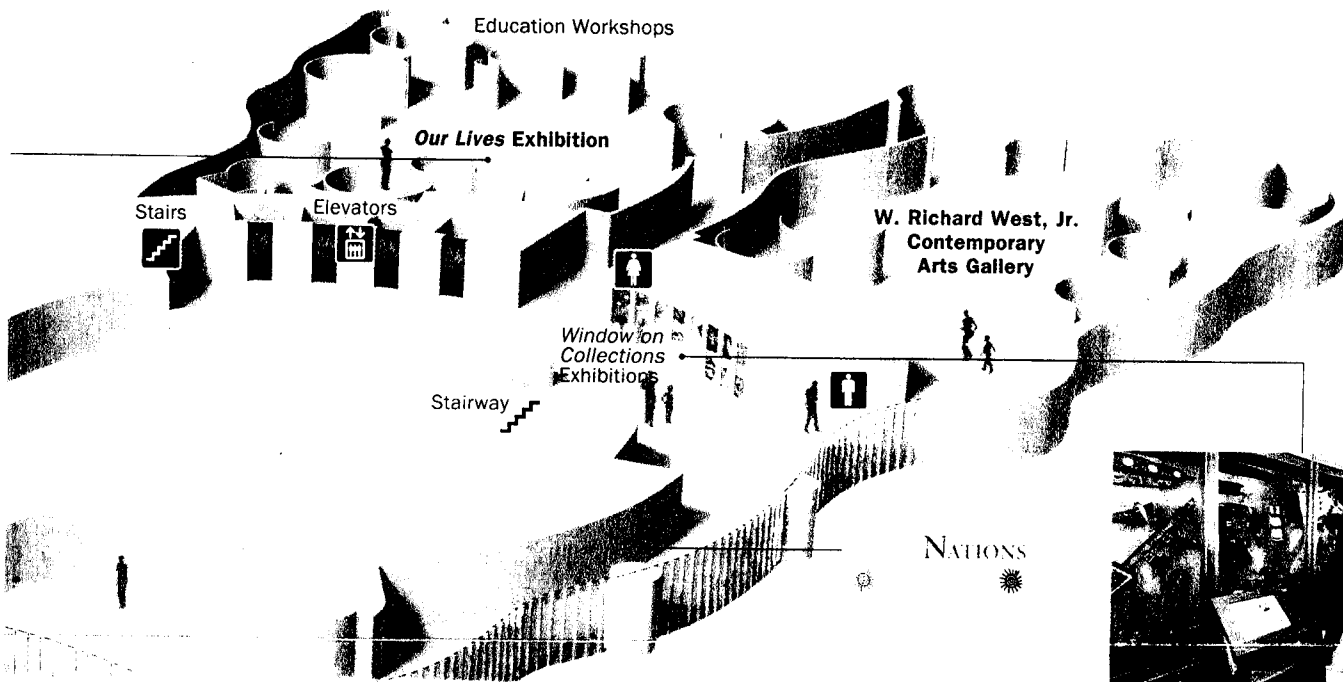




Allies in War, Partners in Peace, by Edward Hlavka, 2004. St. George, Utah. Bronze. Gift of the Oneida Indian Nation of New York.



The role of guns in Native American history is one of the subjects explored in the *Our Peoples* exhibition.

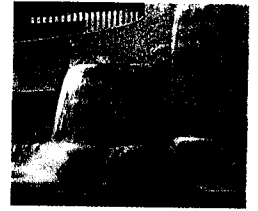


MUSEUM LANDSCAPE

Several varieties of corn, including Cherokee White Eagle Corn and Black Sweet Corn, are grown in the cropland area.



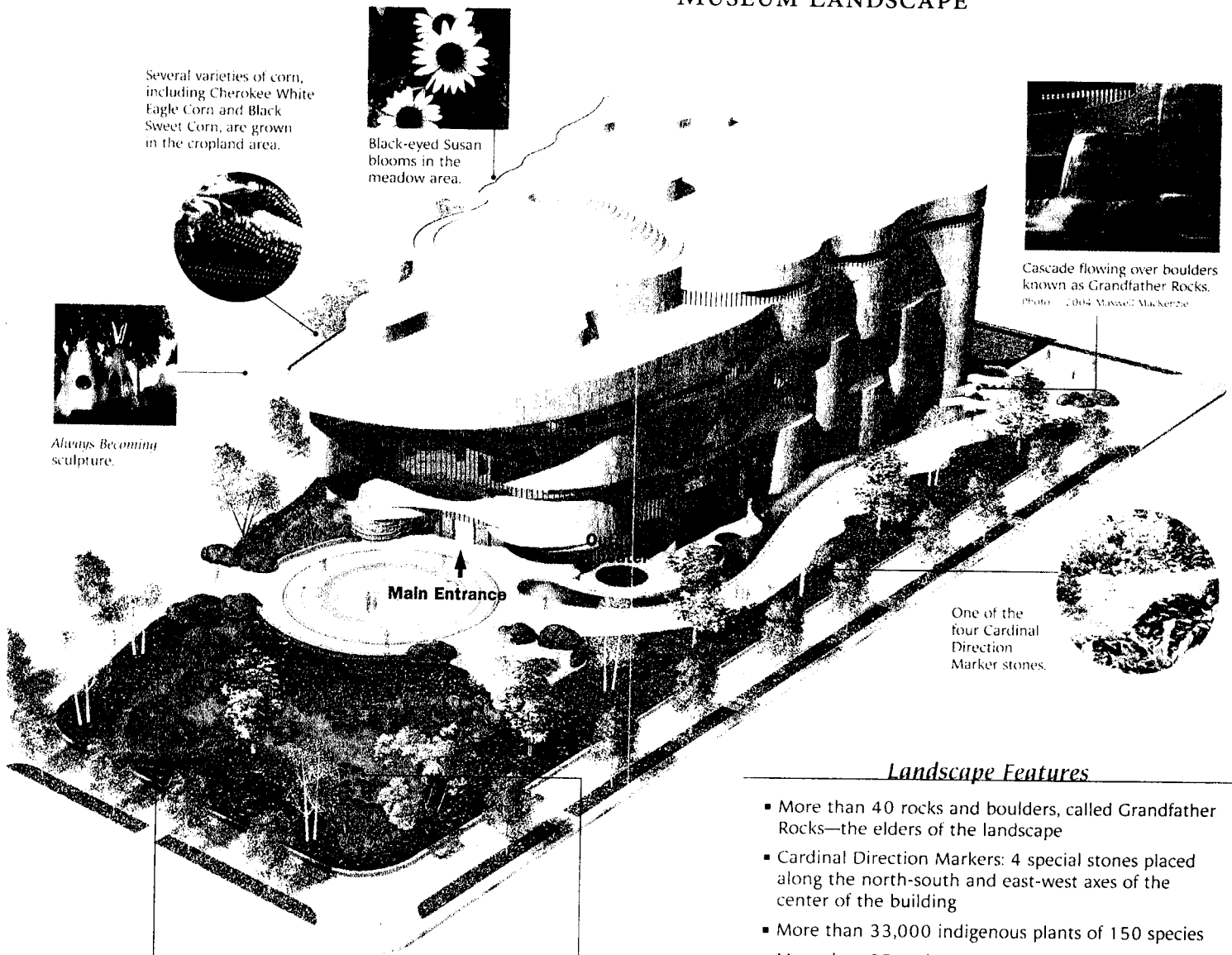
Black-eyed Susan blooms in the meadow area.



Cascade flowing over boulders known as Grandfather Rocks.
Photo © 2004 Maxwell MacKenzie



Always Becoming sculpture.

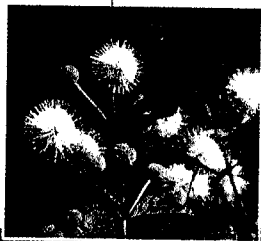


One of the four Cardinal Direction Marker stones.



Landscape Features

- More than 40 rocks and boulders, called Grandfather Rocks—the elders of the landscape
- Cardinal Direction Markers: 4 special stones placed along the north-south and east-west axes of the center of the building
- More than 33,000 indigenous plants of 150 species
- More than 25 native tree species, including red maple, staghorn sumac, and white oak
- Wild rice, marsh marigolds, cardinal flowers, and silky willows can be found in the wetlands
- Buttercups, fall panic grass, black-eyed Susan, and sunflowers are featured in the meadow
- Corn, beans, squash, and tobacco are grown in the cropland area
- Five hand-built clay sculptures, entitled *Always Becoming*, by artist Nora Naranjo-Morse (Santa Clara Pueblo)



Butterfly pollinating buttonbush in the wetlands area.

Water lilies thrive in the wetlands area.

